

Living **THE LEGEND** **BLACK JACK**

APRIL 2007

CPT JOSEPH ROSEN
COBRA COMMANDER
C, 1st BN, 8th CAV

**MUSTANG COMBAT OUTPOSTS
CLOSER THAN EVER BEFORE**

SPARTAN RECON

KARKH'S CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Sick Call on Haifa

INSIDE



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Cover Photo



This month's cover photo was taken during my stay at C, 1-8's "Cobra Cabana," a combat outpost near FOB Rustamiyah. CPT Rosen stood outside their outpost supervising the security barriers being placed in.
(Photo by SFC Kap Kim)

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Black Jack Soldiers and families:

As I prepared my comments this month, I realized that we are rapidly approaching the six month mark in our deployment. We have seen historic operations and changes in our sector since we planted our guidons in central Baghdad in November, and I would like to take a few minutes to reflect on where we have been and where we are going.

We have recently refocused the Brigade's effort to the Karkh District in central Baghdad after we experienced so much success in Doura. Before the Black Jack Brigade rolled into Karkh in January, it was known as an enclave for some of the worst elements in Iraq. For example, Al Qaida and the Ta'whid Wa Jihad operated freely and used the area as a support base for attacks across Baghdad.

Attacks on Coalition Forces and Iraqi Security Forces happened everyday in Karkh, with an average of 50 or more attacks a month. Sectarian murder victims were left in the street every day – 53 in the month of January alone. Haifa Street was abandoned; the people were only able to come out at night to scavenge for the bare necessities because of sniper fire and roving bands of terrorists. Karkh may not have been hell on earth, but it was about as close as you could get.

Our first units rolled into Karkh in January in order to prepare to implement the Baghdad Security Plan in February. In a short period of time, I have seen firsthand the difference Black Jack Soldiers have made. Security has improved dramatically in Karkh, attacks on security forces have been cut in half and sectarian murders have been virtually eliminated. With increased security, schools have reopened, markets and shops have reopened, and families have started to return to Karkh. As we did in Doura, we are making a difference in Karkh – making the streets safer for both us and the Iraqi people.

Because of the increased security, we have also been able to increase our support to essential services and infrastructure projects. These projects to improve sewer, water, electricity, sanitation, schools, and health care facilities are key to demonstrating to the Iraqi people in our sector that their government has a stake in their lives. When we support these projects, we win the support of the common Iraqi People. Moreover, we demonstrate that terrorists and criminals have nothing to offer but more violence and bloodshed.

We still, however, have much to do. The coming months will require us to remain focused and vigilant. And, as always, we must remain positive, polite, professional, prepared to help and prepared to kill.

In conclusion, I want to again thank both the soldiers and the families of the Black Jack Brigade for all that you do. I know the successes that we have experienced would not have been possible without the hard work of our soldiers and the unfailing support of our families. In the end remember ...

Your actions and your sacrifices have made our small part of Iraq a better place.

Black Jack 6

Bryan J. Roberts



Living The Black Jack Legend staff thanks:

Our function in the Black Jack Brigade is to tell the Soldier story -- your story. In this issue of the *Living the Black Jack Legend*, we tried to represent every battalion.

The month of March was a particularly tough month for the Black Jack Brigade. I was on assignment at FOB Rustamiyah and its outlying combat outposts. We lost a lot of good Soldiers from the Mustang Battalion.

Mustangs, we send our condolences; we all mourn your loss.

So, we dedicate this issue to the men and women of 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment. They have a tough mission, but they do it better than anyone I've seen.

Special thanks to CPT Evans Hanson for your coordination; MAJ Moore for requesting your Public Affairs Office; CPTs Stuckey from Commando and Rosen from Cobra for your hospitality; Legion's CPT Morris for giving me total freedom to do my job and excepting me as one of your own; SSGs Brooks, Fast, SSG (P) Salazar, SFC Cook, and SGT Green from Legion.

As I travel around this country, there are those who get me to where I need to go. I'd be remissed if I did not thank those who take me and my equipment. Outlaws' CPT Williams, SFC Baker, SGT Torres, 1LT Bonnetty, and SSG Mitchell.

I'd like to also thank those faceless pilots and crew chiefs who transport me on the First Team Express. We really couldn't do our job without you.

SFC Kap Kim
Black Jack Public Affairs
NCOIC

4-9 Females Change Roles and Find Success

Story & photos by SPC Kate Huff
Black Jack Public Affairs

*Tyler searches a female
entering the IZ.*



FOB PROSPERITY, Iraq -- Six months ago, SPC Shana Shelby thought she would deploy to Iraq and spend her time in the 2BSTB's communications shop. But when she arrived to Kuwait, where the brigade staged before heading to Baghdad, she was told that wouldn't be the case.

"At the time I was very disappointed because I really wanted to do my job," said Shelby, originally from New Orleans. "It was very frustrating."

She and many other females from the Brigade's organic units were pulled, last minute, to be part of 4-9 Cav's Search and Support platoon. The squadron was going to head up security for the International Zone in Baghdad and needed females to search the women entering the heavily fortified area.

"I needed to have a certain amount of females to perform my mission," CSM James Daniels, 4-9 Cav's senior non-commissioned officer explained. "My organic organization didn't have enough, so I needed other units from the BSB and the BSTB to each provide 12 females a piece so I could be able to accomplish my mission."

So the 32 women all picked up and headed to 4-9 Cav where they trained to work at checkpoints.

"We had some ECP (entry control point) training in Kuwait. You know, what to look for," said PFC Amanda Tyler who used to be a military policeman with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2BCT. "We learned how to search and what to feel for on the body. Basically signs to look for."

Initially, some Soldiers said they were skeptical about the move.

"Well, everyone at first was really, well, not on edge, but a little



SGT Jaime Miller, keeps an eye on the situation on the ground from inside the control room.

hesitant because no one really knew each other," said Tyler, a native of Tampa, Fla. "We all came from different jobs and all of that."

Not only was it matter of getting to know new people, but also a matter of abandoning countless hours of deployment training in their old military occupational specialties. Shelby explained that she had spent over two years training to do her job for a deployment, but now that she's been at the ECP for almost five months she knows that the experience she gains here will help her when she returns to her original job.

"I've gained a lot of tactical knowledge and think that I can apply that to my old job," said Shelby. "I've gained a lot of experience out here. So I would say this is an invaluable experience. And I'm glad to have the opportunity to do it."

That sentiment seemed to extend to the personal relationships the Soldiers formed.

"We all like being a part of this. I mean, we do all miss our companies and our original

positions, but we've come together as a team; we support one another. We're proud of what we're doing, and we enjoy it. We've all made a lot of good friends; we all stick together," said Tyler.

They've also had a chance to get out and meet the locals and find out how their mission affects them.

"We've all learned a lot of Arabic and a lot about the culture. Which I think will help us in the long run," Tyler said. "I think it helps [the local nationals] -- that we do respect their culture -- that we do respect their rules -- their religion."

Though they were displaced from their original positions, the female searchers of 4-9 have found their niche in this deployment.

"We all came from different places, all at the last minute- kind of in a whirlwind thing -- didn't even know what we were doing or if we'd like it. I think it's a good thing," said Tyler. "A lot of people are taking pride in what they're doing because they feel like they're doing something helpful."

15TH'S DAY

STORY & PHOTOS BY SGT ROBERT UDE BLACK JACK PUBLIC AFFAIRS

BAGHDAD, Iraq – “It was kind of a shock because I didn’t know they had a zoo,” SFC Herbert Mowery said of his initial reaction upon learning that one of his new responsibilities would be working with the staff of the Baghdad Zoo.

With the 15th BSB’s move to FOB Prosperity came new missions, among those overseeing an area of Baghdad known as Al-Zawra Park, which is home to the once renowned Baghdad Zoo.

The three-square block park, nestled in the heart of the city, was a surprising sight to the Parkersburg, W. Va. native the first time he visited the area.

“It was a big shock because of how well they had maintained it throughout this whole time, and then to see the people out there and the animals that they have,” said Mowery. “It was a welcome surprise.”



Soldiers with the 15th BSB, get an up close look at lions at the Baghdad Zoo March 19.

Within the confines of the park are several walking paths, a small amusement park, horse stables and the Baghdad Zoo.

“It’s a nice place where the local nationals can go to have some relaxation time and some family time,” he said.

The zoo, which was once one of the largest in the Middle East, was home to more than 600 animals at its prime. Although there are not nearly as many animals today, it is a testament to the dedication of the staff that it is still in operation.

According to the zoo’s assistant director, who helped open the zoo in 1978, the zoo closed for only about five months after the war began. During that time, staff members who lived on the grounds continued to care for the animals.

“As far as I know, they only lost one animal during that whole time,” Mowery said.

The assistant director said that while attendance is still much lower than he would like to see, things are going Soldiers with the 15th BSB, 2nd BCT, 1st Cav. Div. get an up close look at a lion during an assessment of the Baghdad Zoo March 19 well.

Mowery is hoping that with the 15th BSB’s assistance, the area will continue to improve and that more and more residents will take advantage of park.

The first step toward this goal is assessing the entire area, which is what Mowery set out to do March 19.

“Right now we’re just trying to get a basic layout,” he explained. “Then once we find out more about the park and how many people actually come from the neighborhood around it, then we can decide exactly what we need to do.”

Mowery and other 15th BSB Soldiers spent the morning driving around the park, visiting the different areas and talking with the staff.

“We’re out here to get some key landmarks and plot them on the map, and talk to some of the key leaders,” Mowery explained. “We need to get their information to help us help them to make sure the infrastructure is good and to see what we can do to help them to get more people to come out.”

While Mowery spent much of the morning speaking with those in charge of the different areas of the park, 1LT Gabrielle Caldara, the brigade’s environmental officer, collected water samples from throughout the area.

“I’m looking at three general parameters,” Caldara, who is originally from upstate New York explained. “It’s PH level, chlorine and bacteria. It’s just a

AT THE ZOO

general assessment and visual inspection otherwise.”

Caldara said she was impressed by the overall appearance of the park and the zoo.

“It’s actually pretty good. There’s not a lot of trash. Compared to a lot of conditions we see, it’s in very good condition,” she said. “There are standing water issues but that is just from their sprinkler system, which will probably evaporate, but there is some chlorine in their water, a small amount, but generally speaking it’s very well maintained considering the surroundings.”

Walking through the zoo, Caldara also said that she was struck by how close she was able to get to some of the animals.

“It was much closer than our zoos,” she said. “I’ve never had an experience like that.”

Unlike most modern American zoos, in which animals are kept in large areas created to replicate their natural environment, the animals are kept in relatively small, caged-in enclosure. During the walkthrough, staff members took the Soldiers right up to the cages so they could get a close-up look at the animals to include lions, a bear, a camel and several species of monkeys.

Perhaps the biggest surprise for the Soldiers was when the assistant director took them into the cheetah’s habitat, where they were actually able to pet the two tame cats.

“The cheetahs were pretty cool,” Caldara said.



Mowery (left) and Caldara get a closer look at a cheetah.

Mowery said that he will continue to visit the park frequently and his next focus will be on maintaining the security inside the park.

“There are IPs (Iraqi Police) at each checkpoint and there are IPs walking throughout the park and that’s one of our main things,” he said. “The next time we go out we’re going to meet with the head of security for the park and see what their actual mission is out there and see if we can help them out in any way.”

Mowery said one of his key goals is to maintain a secure environment where people can come enjoy themselves and feel safe.

“That’s one of our big projects that were going to try to do here,” Mowery said. “It’s good for the people to have a place where they can relax and get away from everything else outside.”



COBRA CABANA

closer than ever

Story & Photos by SFC Kap Kim Black Jack Public Affairs

COBRA BASE, Iraq – The last few weeks has been extremely “hectic” for Mustang Soldiers. Baghdad’s security plan sent them looking for a new place to live, and along with that, building up the security measures to keep themselves safe.

For members of the Company C, 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, who used to live in Forward Operating Base



PFC Shawn Bonnema teaches the Black Jack “Bump” to an Iraq child near the Cobra Cabana.

Rustamiyah, the order to move out into the Baghdad populace left them asking a lot of questions.

“We were like, ‘Why?,’” said SSG Keith McDonald, a dismounted squad leader assigned to Co. A now attached to Co. C. of Fort Worth, Texas. “In the beginning, we were uncertain what our mission would be.”

When they first started the move, the Soldiers slept out of their vehicles in a palm grove and pulled their own security, according to CPT Joseph Rosen, Co. C commander. “It was a difficult sell to the Soldiers, where, on the FOB, they are relatively safe -- to come out here, where they always have to keep their guard up,” said the former Army brat from Fort Polk, La.

Rosen said they knew the palm groves would be a temporary camp since the area would not be safe. So, they started scouting out places to live. They eventually found a building nestled within an industrial area of Rustamiyah, a section of Baghdad southeast of Sadr City.

According to the local residents, the militia once inhabited the former snack packaging plant. During their occupation, many of

the local business owners were forced out of their businesses and homes.

“These guys here were wealthy, so they were targeted [by the militia],” Rosen said.

When the militia made their recent mass exodus, they left the building in flames.

“Some parts of the building were still on fire,” said PFC Arturo Huerta, of Dinuba, Ca.

During their move into their combat outpost known as “Cobra Base,” the Soldiers worked tirelessly to set up security measures.

“There’s been no down time,” said Rosen. “Until we bring up the security won’t be a lot either ... and we still go on patrols.”

“Everyday, we are thinking, ‘if I was an insurgent, how would I



PFC Timothy Olson spends time playing with the local children.

attack?," Rosen continued.

The move into the heart of the community would initially be "hell," McDonald would tell his men. "I like it now, but it took a lot of work in getting this ready."

They are without many of the amenities their brethren at nearby bases enjoy, but they continue to make improvements to what they now call the "Cobra Cabana."

Through their sacrifices, the men said they understand and appreciate what the intent was.

"To me, it seems like the

people here want to help out," said SPC Joshua Vickroy, of Augusta, Ga. "These guys will help out. They give us info and ask us if we need help. Overall, we get good feelings for them toward us."

According to CPT Evans Hanson, 1st Bn., 8th Cav. Regt.'s Fire Support officer, being a part of the community was very important to the overall mission of securing their part of Baghdad.

"These guys are working miracles to get their areas set up," Hanson said. "We've said we are a part of the community, but you can't get a walk-in tip into [FOB] Rustamiyah. Out there, we *are* a part of the community because they work in the community."

As their support company continually brings in supplies and cement barriers, the local children swarm to the Soldiers chanting, "mista, mista," and asking

for chocolate. As Vickroy watches the children play near their tanks, he said by his unit being there, he hopes the children have what he had growing up.

"I just want them to have the same things I had when I was growing up -- the hopes and dreams I had -- just to have the opportunity to shoot for my dreams," he said.

For McDonald, being able to live and work so closely to the community they will help protect is paramount to his mission. Another thing the Soldiers said they want is for many of the residents who where forced to leave their homes and businesses to eventually come back to their normal lives.

"I want them to know that we are not going to leave them high and dry, and that we are here to stay. We want them to feel safe. We want them to get their economy up; we want them to make money so they can help themselves," he said. "We are always out here; we are always in sector. Maybe when they see that, they will know we are here to help them, and I think that's a big deal."

SPARTAN RECON

Story & Photos by SPC Alexis Harrison
Black Jack Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE
PROSPERITY, Iraq – For almost five months now, the 2nd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, has been busy discovering problems and implementing reconstruction efforts in the heart of the capital.



SSG William Gazdaugh pulls security while the Spartans check out a neighborhood in Karkh

While the newest security plan, Fard Al Quanoon, continues to show success in the Black Jack Brigade's area of operations, the Spartan Battalion and local leaders are taking advantage of the momentum to continue improving neighborhoods still reeling from the effects of sectarian violence.

After several days of intense dominance and fighting last month, coalition forces reclaimed the area allowing the Infrastructure Coordination Element to go to work in a safer environment.

"Things are happening extremely fast right now," said LTC Ken Crawford, commander 2nd BSTB. "And we're seizing that opportunity to get these [projects] rolling."

Black Jack leaders said the security in the area has drastically improved. According to the brigade commander, COL Bryan Roberts, murders have gone down more than 80 percent in his brigade's area.

What this means for the reconstruction team is peace of mind, said Crawford.

"It's never easy to go out into sector," Crawford said. "However, it's a lot more pleasant to go out and talk to people who are more receptive and eager to see you."

"We're here right now," said CSM Chris Nadeau. "We have to co-exist with these people. As things get better we also have to be a part of that change. It's about interacting with the people and getting their lives back to normal."

Now, every time the team goes out, they are greeted by men, women and children from the neighborhood. Crawford said that this is the best way



Crawford (middle), SGT Thomas Durga and members of the Spartan Battlaion speak to locals.

to assess the pulse of the community.

Not only has Crawford's team been able to do their job, public works and district leaders are at the front, looking into possible avenues of improvement.

Crawford likened the relationship between his troops and local leaders to a total team effort. Everyone plays a small but important role in bringing the community back to life.

To date, more than \$66 million has been spent on more than 35 projects by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers led by the 2nd BSTB Spartans.

Also, more than \$5 million has been put into the Commander's Emergency Response Program that's netted more than 60 complete projects.

At least 40 more projects are on the way thanks to a joint effort between the Spartans, district and municipality leaders. As much has been completed, it hasn't been an easy road to travel for some of the communities' civic necessities.

Just one example of success has been a clinic in the Karkh area. A little more than two months ago the

clinic was operational, but suddenly it closed.

In fear of their lives and security, the staff closed the doors and didn't look back until new security measures began to be installed. Now, a total joint effort has been renewed, and the clinic is up and running.

The 1st Battalion, 1st Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division provides necessary security while district leaders and public officials perform assessments on possible projects.

The Spartan team parallels this by essentially doubling the manpower able to assess projects while providing security for themselves and the people.

"[Local leaders] are able to go out into the neighborhoods with us and also perform their own assessments," Crawford said. "[They] are very eager to move progress ahead for a more functional, cleaner environment for people to live in."

'As long as the people see us, meaning the coalition, Iraqi Security Forces and local leaders, working together, anti-Iraqi forces won't be able to maintain a foothold in the neighborhoods.'

~ Karkh is right on the cusps of economic surge ...
This district is going to be a shining star for the rest of Baghdad;
it'll be the model for the rest of Baghdad. ~

MAJ James Adams - 2B5TB

Building Baghdad through CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

By \$FC Kap Kim
Black Jack Public Affairs

BAGHDAD, Iraq – Throughout communities within the United States, business owners gather to form a tightly wound network to strengthen their local economy. For the past year or so, the Karkh business owners have tried to form their own network in hopes of achieving the same.

So, when they came together to vote on their first-ever, Chamber of Commerce leaders, March 3, it didn't happen. Yet, this was the second time Baghdad's Karkh district business owners met at the District Advisory Council Hall and decided that they needed more time to not only figure out who would best represent them, but also needed more time to understand the bylaws.

According to MAJ James H. Adams, the 2nd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, executive officer, of Alexandria, La., the Coalition Forces, who serve as advisors, couldn't be prouder of the delay.

"This is governance in action," Adams said proudly. "This shows so much functionality. They made a decision and went with it. This showed courage and functionality to make a decision in the face [of so much]."

CPT Jason Lewis, the 2nd Brigade Combat Team's Civil Affairs officer, who calls Portland, Ore. home, agreed that the elections should take more time. He said the officers should be those business owners who have done well despite the war.

"They are natural leaders," said Lewis. "They have the power or 'wasta,' a local term used for people with pull. They can survive the war and drive around in Mercedes. They are the people you want running Baghdad."

According to Adams, the DAC, which provides legitimacy to the, would-be Chamber of Commerce, would work together with the Chamber to enforce standards on other business leaders.

The thought is that the business owners would, according to the bylaws, agree to hire contractors from their community who could do the work, do it right, and in a timely manner, thereby promoting a stronger economy for Karkh.

"We want to put your family, your neighbors, your friends to work ... The DAC has recognized that, and we know that's the way to proceed," said MAJ Chip Daniels, the Infrastructure Coordination Element chief from Palmyra, Pa., to the DAC and business owners.

In other districts of Baghdad such as Al Doura, the Chamber of Commerce has flourished. It's opened more than 170 different shops and numerous markets by using the same principles, according to Lewis. "We want [Karkh] to learn from the lessons in Doura because it's been successful there. Businessmen will listen to other businessmen."

For the Coalition Forces who usually take a back seat to the DAC decisions, they know the future of Baghdad, both economically and with its security largely depends on the yea's and nea's.

"The bottom line is the jobs," said Lewis. "I think the insurgency is caused by people not having jobs."

He added that it's not about hiring people to senseless work, or the "band-aid" method, but rather jobs with viable skills and trades that would ultimately help increase the local market.

Many of the DAC members, like Hassan said that is the key to a better future.

"With your help, this will be very good for the people," he told Adams after the meeting.

"Karkh is right on the cusps of economic surge," said Adams. "This district is going to be a shining star for the rest of Baghdad; it'll be the model for the rest of Baghdad."

The question to how long it would take for Karkh to have a fully-functional Chamber of Commerce may be answered by U.S. history. Adams draws back to the length of time it took the founding fathers to agree on the U.S. Constitution and the bill of rights.

"I think it's more conditions-based than time based," he said. "You have to first build a functional counsel before you move on. You can work a timeline, but you have to be willing to deviate from the timeline due to members leaving and other events."

How this works out is something most of the DAC and Karkh residents are interested in seeing. Many of them, according to Adams, eagerly await the decisions so they can just live in peace and have a nice place to raise their children.

"I see this as so monumental. One-hundred years from now, they can look back – yeah, there were some growing pains, but it was something that worked."



Karkh DAC members meet with the local business owners, Chamber of Commerce, and the press.

RED DRAGONS TAKE ON NEW MISSION, NEW SECTOR

By SGT Robert Yde
Black Jack Public Affairs

FOB UNION III, Iraq - Since arriving in Iraq, the Soldiers of 3-82 FA have demonstrated their diversity by taking on missions that would not be considered your typical field artillery mission.

Until recently, the majority of the battalion's Soldiers have been responsible for providing VIP escorts, mainly for State Department officials, around Baghdad. Now the battalion is taking on a new mission and their own area-of-operations - an area of Baghdad known as Qadisiyah.

"We picked it up about two-and-a-half weeks ago officially," 1LT Todd Martin, a platoon leader for Battery A, said of the new mission.

The Suffield, Conn. native said that right now he and his Soldiers are still going through the process of familiarizing themselves with the area.

"Right now we're just trying to map the ground basically. We're just figuring out where everything is - where schools are, where mosques are, and then also trying to find who the key personnel are - DAC officials, imams, sheiks - people who really influence what happens on the ground," he explained.

According to Martin, the change of mission comes at a good and his Soldiers are excited about the new challenge.

"I think the Soldiers and NCOs (noncommissioned officers) and even the officers are all really excited about this change in mission," he said. "It's good too because we're almost at the half-way mark of our deployment and complacency is starting to take over and be our real key threat. So with this change of mission, everybody's got to reassess what they're doing out there and kind of relearn everything all over again. It's like it's brand new again ...

which is good."

"It's not exactly what I thought, but I'm always up for the challenge. It's pretty much like being an 11B (infantryman); I guess you could say," PFC Aaron Buckley, a humvee driver from Anchorage, Alaska said. "It's a good experience, and this is just additional training ... which is pretty nice."

Martin and his Soldiers went out for their second patrol of Qadisiyah March 30 with the intention of photographing and noting the location of abandoned cars in the area, as well as to spend a little time talking to the locals.

"We're really just trying to make an impact right away. With the trash and these abandoned vehicles, some of them are just burnt out or upside down and obviously no one's using them," Martin said.

As they drove through the neighborhood, Martin would have his driver stop his truck when they came across a vehicle that appeared to be abandoned, photograph it and obtain grid coordinates for its location. When they did stop to dismount and talk to the locals, the people appeared to be glad to see them and took some time to talk with them about problems in the area.

"Most of them seem pretty friendly," Kansas City, Mo. native, PFC Aaron Black said of the residents of Qadisiyah. "We've got a good area that we cover and not a lot of violence or things like that. Smiles and waves are what we get most of the time."

Most of the Soldiers said they look forward to the prospect of being able to interact with the people, which is something that their previous mission didn't give them much of an opportunity to do.

"Before we were mostly doing QRF (quick reaction force) and escorts, but now we're actually in the neighborhoods with the people and it's a lot more interesting" Black said.

According to Martin, in preparation for their new mission, his Soldiers have been undergoing some additional training over the past few weeks.

"About three weeks ago we started putting together classes on the different things we thought we needed to get better at to take this mission on," he explained. "We identified a couple key things like weapon marksmanship, battle drills, detainee ops and sensitive site exploitation, and then we put together some classes that we could teach to the TCs (truck commanders) and above and the TCs could turn around and teach that down to the Soldiers."

One of the most noticeable aspects of the area during their patrol was the numerous roadblocks that the locals had made out of anything they could find and that were set up throughout the neighborhood.

"I think that's just the people trying to take control of their area and trying to keep the bad people out. The only way they can do that is by blocking the roads and hoping that the guys are going to choose the path of least resistance," Martin said. "The people we're helping us move the stuff out of the way and they weren't worried about us rolling through, but I think it's the insurgents and AIF (anti-Iraqi forces) they're trying to keep out of their neighborhood."

By setting up these roadblocks, Martin said that the people appear to be proactive about maintaining the security in their area and he is hoping that he and his Soldiers can develop a productive relationship with the locals.

"We're going try to find out what the people need with the biggest thing being essential services - sewer, water, electricity, trash pickup," Martin said. "We're just going to try to give them some of the things that we sometimes take for granted and try to improve their standard of living."

Adapt and Overcome

A soldier in camouflage gear is shown in profile on the right side of the frame, looking out over a war-torn landscape. The ground is covered in rubble and debris. In the background, there are several buildings, some of which appear to be damaged or destroyed. The sky is overcast and grey.

4-9 MiTT fought through Haifa and Hateen.
Now they plan to make progress in a
whole new area where the
threats are just the same

Story & Photos by
SpC. Alexis Harrison
Black Jack Public Affairs

Adapt and Overcome

3-5-6 MiTT

A few months ago, Haifa Street was considered one of the most notorious places in Iraq. Coalition forces reclaimed the area after a few days of intense fighting.

Just before the battle for Haifa, the 4-9 Cavalry Military Transition Team had been training and fighting alongside their Iraqi brothers from the 3rd Battalion, 5th Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division.

As abruptly as the fighting ended, the team and its counterparts were reassigned to a different area in Hateen where they fought an equally aggressive enemy.

After spending more than two months gaining trust and rebuilding the structure of the neighborhood, the soldiers, both Iraqi and American, were called upon to move to another area.

Now, the team and the Iraqi Army battalion patrol a predominately Shi'a sector just west of the International Zone. And after more than 90 days of tough lessons learned on Haifa, the team takes its training of their counterparts more seriously than ever.

SSG Colin Davis said that although the move presents challenges, it's also proved to be good in many ways.

Davis said that staying in an area for too long can lead to complacency. He stressed the importance of learning how to adapt and overcome every challenge that's been placed on the soldiers he fights with.

As much as they'd faced in the past, the team still knew how important it was to never lower its guard.

What started as a routine patrol through one of the neighborhoods in Docklia turned into a valuable lesson on how to react to contact.

A sniper fired upon the team's vehicles while they were entering the

ma h a l l a .
W i t h i n
seconds, SGT
Jay Mayhle
called up that
he had positive
identification
and he immediately laid down suppressive fire.

The original plan for the day didn't call for a lesson like the one that was taught. The team's plan was to check out the living conditions, fighting positions and overall attitude of the soldiers who stay out in the area.

MAJ Christopher Norrie, the MiTT chief of Barton, Vt., said that when coming into a new area like Docklia, it's paramount to gain the people's trust and begin to make improvements to not only security

but to essential services like water, sewage and school rebuilding.

Surprisingly enough, this brief brush with an anti-Iraqi insurgent would prove to be a useful to Norrie, the team and the Iraqi soldiers with them.

"The training doesn't stop, even when you go out in sector," said SSG Buaka Tamu, of Sierra Leon, West

Africa, a security chief with the team.

While many of the team's members acknowledge the suspicions that surround the Iraqi security, they also make it very clear how important trust is to each and every one of them.

"We're a family," Tamu said. "It's not the MiTT and the Iraqi Army; it's just 3-5-6. We're all together in this. We're doing what has to be done now so that our kids and grandkids don't have to be doing it all over again down the road."

"We trust these guys enough to fight alongside them," said PFC Josh Bartoli, a driver and Weirton, W.V., native with the team. "That should say enough."

Two days after encountering the sniper, the team and its counterparts were back on the street accomplishing the mission the started out to fulfill.

The finally got to hand out all the backpacks and care packages to the kids on the streets.

"It's all about strengthening relationships with the people," Norrie said. "We all believe the future of this country belongs in their hands. They are the force to put an end to this violence. If not them, then who else?"



AS SOLDIERS FALL

Story & Photos by SFC Kap Kim

Black Jack Public Affairs

LEGION OUTPOST, Iraq – In an instant, four Soldiers lost their lives, two more would hold on to it desperately. Later, the two would succumb to their massive injuries.

It would be another story of how this war would take more lives, but this story -- their story, would be a story of how a group of men endured so much, yet always found the time to enjoy one another's company -- how all they wanted was to go back home to their wives, sons, daughters, parents, girlfriends and fiancés – and how they will move on.

Recently, the men of Company B, 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, showed me that even under the toughest of times, laughter and stories of their loved ones back home would carry them through so much because it had during their last deployment.

I learned that a unit isn't built around its equipment, its flag, or even its buildings; however, it is made up of its Soldiers and the legacy they leave behind like the ones left behind by SSG Terry W. Prater, SSG Blake M. Harris, SGT Ryan P. Green, SGT Emerson "Eddie" N. Brand, SGT Nick "Doc" Lightner, and SPC James L. Arnold.

During early evening tea with some Iraqi security guards, SSG Bernie Brooks, of Palm Springs, Calif., the unit historian of sorts, told a story of how B, 1-8 came to be. It started with his arrival to Fort Hood from Fort Irwin, Calif. He was assigned to Company D, 1st Battalion, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division. It was then just like any other combat unit he's been to. During that assignment, he would meet a confident young noncommissioned officers named SSG Wayne Fast of Warroad, Minn., Porter, SSG Armando Salazar, of Brownwood, Texas, Staff SSG Seven Heard, SFC Brian Cook, SSG James Jeffers, Staff Sgt. Elvis Bourdon, and 1SG Orlando Garcia, who was then a sergeant first class just to name a few.

It was those noncommissioned officers who would train, mentor, befriended the young Soldiers for their first deployment and raise them into the grunts who were professionals under the constant stresses of combat. Through the deployment, it was people like Bourdon, who before his death, left his mark on Soldiers – Soldiers such as Fast.

"I went to the Master Gunner's Course because Elvis told me that he wanted me to go," he said solemnly. Today, Fast serves as the unit's master gunner.

While in Iraq, during Operation Iraqi Freedom II in 2004, the unit spent most of their deployment patrolling the notorious Haifa St. According to Brooks, Haifa St. was nothing but rockets and grenades.

"For 10 months straight ... damn near everyday, it was the same street, the same thing; it was everyday ... I still can remember the color of the doors," said CPT Jeff Morris, B's commander. "Sadr City was bad; Najaf and Fallujah were too, but it was from May to Feb ... I mean it was constant. We got attacked almost 60 percent out of the time outside the gates. It was mainly grenades, and they never make CNN, but for the guys on the ground, two

grenades were a lot."

Back then, the young platoon leader, of sorts, was being tested by the enlisted men he would later command. Morris, who is a Destin, Fla. son, would eventually win his men's admiration through distinguishing himself as a tough ground-pounder during combat, earning the Bronze Star Medal with valor.

Morris, who looks back at their year in Iraq, remembers not only how tough it was for them, but also their many successes – more importantly, he remembers the men who sacrificed so much to make the unit he commands now, so rich in history.

"When you take a group of men in that particular time and that particular place, you can't help but gain something out of it," he said. "I can stay in [the Army] for the next 20 years and will not have an opportunity like I've had last four years. I would spend years trying to chase what I had with these guys, and I don't want to spend the next 17 years trying to chase what I had."

In the year that C, 1-9 spent in Iraq during OIF II, they earned more Purple Heart Medals than any other unit since the Vietnam War.



, LEGACY LIVES ON



woven differently than most commanders. He knows everything about every one of his Soldiers. He eats with them, he jokes with them, and he lifts weights with them. He seems to do everything leadership manuals tell you not to do and still seems to earn his Soldiers' utmost respect.

"I don't want to be that guy who tells people what to do," he admitted. "I want to be able to give them the flexibility to choose what to do on their own."

In speaking to his Soldiers, almost every one of them, and even the ones in his support company, genuinely like and respect him as a commander. For the noncommissioned officers who new him as a "wet-behind-the-ears" LT, he proved so much through the years.

"He never holds a grudge," Brooks said about Morris. "He punishes you -- then forgives you."

Morris, who actually blushed at hearing some of his Soldiers' comment about him, attributed his success to the luck of the unit in having a "run of good officers"

"This company has had the good fortune of having a great run of officers who learned from great NCOs," he said. "It's incredibly humbling; I don't know what it is, but I think it helped that I was a successful platoon leader, and they remembered that."

Morris, who immediately swashed talk of "the patriarch" leaving the family and quickly said the patriarch has always been their first sergeant.

As of May 1, Morris will relinquish command of B, 1-8 and take a position on the 2nd BCT staff.

"No one wants to leave command," he said. "It's going to be hard, and as much as I don't want to leave command, at least I have had the time [with these guys]."

In my two days with the guys, my observation was this: they are all adrenaline junkies; they all suffer from Attention Deficit, Hyperactivity Disorder; they never sleep; they hate Meals Ready to Eat; all they want is a door to kick in; bad guys to catch; and that they all have one common bond.

Morris said the unit's bond is forged by standards that cannot be measured.

"It's not because we are tactically proficient; it's not because of our D and C (drill and ceremony) because lord knows we are not, but it's the camaraderie."

The camaraderie they share is one to be envied by most units. They spend their days at a combat outpost they call Legion Base. In just a few weeks there, the guys have transformed the place they really enjoy. Away from the "creature comforts" of Forward Operating Base Rustamayah, the Soldiers have made a little gym, an entertainment room and brought to life a basketball court rarely used before. They made light of a tough mission in Iraq.

They treat one another with respect, although most break the Army way and call one another by their first names.

"There's a lot of respect for everyone in this company," Brooks said. "Everyone has a lot of respect for the CO (commander) and the first sergeant, and they have respect for all of us."

Prater, a Speedwell, Tenn. native, earned the Silver Star Medal for his heroic act of placing his body between a grenade blast from one of his fellow Soldiers. He also earned the Purple Heart Medal from the grenade's shrapnel. By the time the unit redeployed, it would hand over four American flags to the family member back home.

"Staff Sergeant Elvis Bourdon ... that one hit us hard," Brooks said. "He was like a big brother to us all."

Almost as soon as C, 1-9 came back to Fort Hood, the Army started its transformation into units of action. The 2nd "Black Jack" Brigade reflagged C, 1-9 into B, 1-8 and fell into the "Mustang" Battalion.

In 2005, the unit allowed a 30-something-year-old first lieutenant -- a former financial consultant -- someone who really wanted to just become a Navy SEAL, to take the command of a group of cocky grunts. Morris, who gained his commission through the U.S. Army's Officer Candidate School, seems to be

OIF# 06-08

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BLACK JACK BRIGADE HOLDS MEDICAL MISSION ON HAIFA ST

OFFICE OF THE BRIGADE SURGEON
FORWARD OPERATING BASE PROSPERITY
BAGHDAD, IRAQ



STORY & PHOTOS BY: SFC Kap Kim AGE: 24

ADDRESS: Black Jack Public Affairs DATE: MAR 24

BAGHDAD, Iraq - As Haifa St. residents begin coming back out into the streets that were once too dangerous to step into, Coalition and Iraqi Security Forces are beginning to lend a much needed hand in many of the basic needs.

So, with hundreds of medical supplies, a few Army medical Soldiers and an Iraqi doctor and nurse on hand, the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, used an elementary school to perform examinations on hundreds of local citizens during a medical mission in the Haifa St. district of Baghdad, Iraq March 24.

"It's really good that they are doing this," said a man who brought his daughter to be seen. "With the security plan working now, we can come out again."

According to MAJ Bruce Rivers, the 2nd Brigade's surgeon, there hasn't been a medical mission such as this in the Karkh District in a long time. Due to the violence there during the last two years, most of the hospitals and clinics were



Left: SFC Rich Wright, 2BCT's Civil Affairs NCO, of Kokomo, Ind., unloads medical supplies.

Below: SSGs R. Ray, of Cleveland (left - right), Brent Juelfs, of Cushing, Iowa, and Michael McBride, of Annapolis, Md. provide security for the patients.



closed. So, many of the people there have had to do with out, said Rivers, who calls Washington, D.C. home.



LABEL

REFILL 0 1 **2** 3 4 5 6

Doc Rivers

(SIGNATURE)



LAST NAME-FIR	<u>Bays,</u>
SERVICE NUMB	
IN LINE OF DU	
REMARKS	

"The goal of this medical mission was to improve on the confidence of the Iraqi people of their medical system," he said. "What I envisioned was both the Iraqi doctors and ISF medical personnel being here."

Within a five-hour period, the team saw more than 230 patients, who were mostly women and children, according to Rivers.

"We treated anything from high blood pressure and diabetes, to respiratory infections and urinary tract infections," he said. "Overall, it was a great day."

Yet, there were many cases that the medical team could not help with.

"There were people we could not help," he said sadly. "Their problems were beyond the scope of what we can do."

He said his plan is to work with the National Iraqi Assistance Center and other organizations to seek further care for the people they couldn't help.

With hundreds of people waiting in line, a team of medics from Troop B, 4th Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, worked with interpreters to screen patients.

SPC Marc Allen, a 4-9 medic from Federal Way, Wash., personally screened more than 100 patients before sending them to one of the rooms inside the makeshift exam rooms.

CPT Christopher Dawson, commander, Troop B, 4-9 Cav. Regt., said missions like this are extremely important because it should be used as a model for future operations.

"The bottom line is that we are going away," said the Lima, Ohio



Rivers listens to a patient's lungs.

native. "We are here supplementing what the [ISF] will plan in the future."

According to Dawson, the medical mission wasn't designed to treat everyone. It was to treat those who could be treated, and for the rest, it was supposed to get them by until they could seek proper medical attention.

His troop, along with the local Iraqi National Police, provides security to the hundreds of residents who came to seek medical attention.

"We've been doing a few humanitarian missions with the security being better," Dawson said. "And in the past couple of months, it's gotten better ... they are thirsting for security here. We started the constant presence - day-to-day you can see the little stuff, but that little stuff adds up."

According to CPT Gene Palka, the 4-9 Operations officer, said the medical mission went well considering it was the first time the brigade has done one there.

"It took a lot to get it together, but it went well," said Palka, from West Point, N.Y. "It was the first time we had a medical exercise ... in that area at least."

In the future, Rivers said he hopes that hospitals and clinics will eventually start opening up in that area because the people there really need the medical attention.

"The people really like us being there," he said. "Every time we go, we get a really warm reception."

INDIVIDUAL SICK SLIP		DATE <i>March 24</i>
PATIENT NAME-MIDDLE INITIAL OF PATIENT <i>Bobby</i>		ORGANIZATION AND STATION <i>Black Jack Brigade</i>
GRADE/RATE	MEDICAL OFFICER'S SECTION	
UNIT COMMANDER'S SECTION	IN LINE OF DUTY	
DISPOSITION OF PATIENT		REMARKS <i>PFC Roxanne Nissen, of Avon, Ind., tries to help Rivers convince a young patient that all he will do is look in his ear.</i>
SIGNATURE OF MEDICAL OFFICER <i>X3 days</i>		





Australian combined arms unit finishes rotation in Baghdad

Story & Photos By
SPC Alexis Harrison
Black Jack Public Affairs

While thousands of Soldiers are slated to arrive to Iraq due to the security push the President and Secretary of Defense have announced, one small group of troops from the “land down under” have been quietly answering their own call to duty all the while.

Infantry and Cavalrymen from Security Detachment 10 have been operating out of the capital’s International Zone for almost six months now acting as security for their ambassador and diplomats. During their six months in Iraq, they’ve learned what it’s like to be a versatile force and how to get the job done while having a little fun.

They said it’s not the job they expected, but they are trained and ready for anything.

“Our job is to watch the ambassador and our diplomatic mission while he travels around Baghdad,” said Lance CPL Guy Lalor, a Brisbane native and crew commander for the security team. “It’s different to what ... you think of when you think of joining Cav and Army. It’s a completely different role.”

Anytime the ambassador has to travel, he’s escorted by the combined-arms team. Although it’s not what



they thought a rotation into the notorious capital city, they've almost completed their six-month tour.

Detachment commander, MAJ Terrence Cook, said that it's been a good rotation overall. They've learned a lot from their experiences and they've come away virtually unharmed.

LT Scott Klima, a troop leader from Darwin, said that the threat they face is about the same as any other coalition force. Roadside bombs have been the biggest threat while traveling around the city; however, they've also helped the troopers make friends with American units.

Klima said that a strong professional and friendly relationship has spurred from the Australians calling upon American Explosive Ordnance Disposal Teams.

"We've built up a good relationship with all the guys we've worked with," said Klima.

The Australian Army has always held good relations with the U.S. Army ever since they fought side by side in WWI. They've not only fought together, but often times they've been trained together in Australia and America.

They're

no strangers to being out in the "bush." They've trained with some of the most elite units in the world like the U.S. Army Rangers and the British Special Forces.

While in Iraq, the side by side training hasn't stopped. Many of the medics with the detachment regularly go to the Combat Support Hospital in the IZ to work and train with their coalition counterparts. Cook said that it's even more commendable since they do it on their free time.

Cook said that although the unit is well-trained, disciplined and battle-proven, it's still just a little different than most other Australian units.

The small unit is composed of both infantry and cavalry troops from the 3rd Battalion (parachute), Royal Australian Regiment, 2nd Cavalry Regiment and the 2/14th Light Horse of the Queensland Mounted Infantry.

The mixed unit of little more than 100 troops isn't much different from their American counterparts living right across the base. Both have important roles to fulfill for themselves and their countries, and both the Australians and members of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division have a strong history of war fighting and honor.

The army has played a vital role in every major conflict starting from its creation in the battlefields of South Africa, where it was born, up to the war on terrorism in Iraq and Afghanistan today.

Recently, the detachment celebrated the Australian Army's 106th Birthday with a celebration in their mess hall.

"We know how to have fun and be relaxed," said Cook. "But when the mission starts, the guys are as focused as anybody."

Joining the Australian Army is basically the same as joining the American. Soldiers are bound to a four-year contract, and afterward, they can reenlist for as long as they like.

"People say they join the Army to see the world, and that's still the case today," said Lalor.

The Diggers have always been willing to travel to serve their country. They've been to Africa, both World Wars, Korea, Malaya, Borneo, Vietnam and the Middle East.

Cook said that as long as the war on terror is ongoing, they'll be here doing their part.



Another NCO who is well respected is an original member of C, 1-9. Cook, who his Soldiers say is the oldest, living platoon sergeant, has endured a lot. Through personal injuries, offers of better positions, and a retirement date, he said he had to deploy one last time because of "these guys."

"My old man was not happy about it," he said about deploying again.

Cook is a Hollywood type of Soldier. He gives dramatic speeches to his men before shouting his famous, "to the wagons!" in which every Soldier mounts their Bradleys while repeating "to the wagons."

Sleep deprived, hungry, some putting their personal ailments aside to accomplish the mission, they routinely took on the tougher missions.

"We just get used to it," said Green.

On their return to their base from almost seven hours of busting into houses, Green shouted, "Anyone want to play a game of basketball?" Exhausted, no one seemed to appreciate his humor.

Green, who was always quick with a joke, enjoyed freestyle rapping. The young sergeant spoke excitedly about marrying some sweet girl he met just before his deployment when he returned to Texas.

"If you come to the wedding, there will be a lot of drinking and dancing," he told me. "I love to dance. My fiancé and I swing dance a lot. What? You don't believe me?"

On his missions, Green, who is a team leader, sat in the truck commander's seat and controls the music they listen to. Yet, he allowed his gunner to pick a selection of "back-in-the-day" music.

"Every unit needs a 'Sergeant Green,'" Morris said on the day he was wounded.

For Brand, working out seemed to be the only thing on his mind aside when back at their base. With his iPod buds in his ears, I watched this guy do about 1,000 pushups and sit ups. He did stomach crunches as if he was raising money for impoverished kids somewhere. In fact, he was working so hard in preparation for the grueling test of going through U.S. Army Ranger School. When it was time to gear up and mount up on their "wagons," as they called their Bradleys, he was the first to go. He was a professional infantryman as the



Green writes information on a person he and his team detained.

rest of the Legion Soldiers.

They seem to dismiss sleep and get excited about going out into sector. In one of their last missions, most of them chose to watch a pickup game of basketball, watch a movie, or just hang out with their fellow Soldiers. Their operational tempo wasn't that of what most remembered of their last deployment, but it was still very exhausting.

"I was hoping it would be like Haifa St. all over again," Fast reminisced.

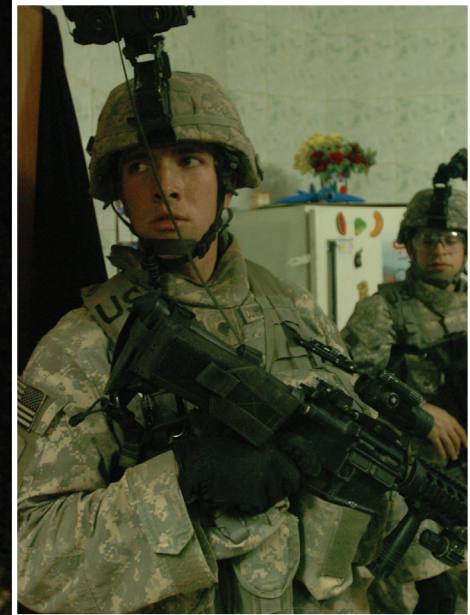
After a recent raid of a suspected insurgent that 1-8 has been in search of for about three months, the Soldiers finally found him. They were tired from the search that took them through more than 60 different rooms and searched 50 people.

As the sun came up, with yet another mission, the next several hours would prove to change everything the unit had worked so hard to achieve this deployment.

On March 15, Co. B Soldiers were conducted a patrol in Al Razul, Baghdad, Iraq, when one of their Bradleys was struck by a roadside bomb. Everyone in the track was uninjured, but minutes later as Prater, Harris, Brand, Green and Arnold dismounted and went to investigate the blast site. Moments later, a secondary blast mortally wounded everyone but Green. Green was rushed to a combat support hospital in Baghdad, Iraq. Later, he was transported to Landstuhl, Germany. While



Morris briefs his lieutenants before their big mission.



Spc. Gregory Cunningham, of Dallas, clears rooms one of the houses his team entered.



A team prepares to enter a house.

being treated for his wounds, he died March 18. Lightner, who sustained the least amount of injury, died upon returning to the United States.

“My goal, as the commander, was to bring everyone back home,” said Morris whose uniform, stained of blood, could not hide the burden of his unit’s loss.

Salazar, who is one of the oldest members of team, sadly said that this wasn’t the way it was supposed to end.

Yet, as Brooks knows, this isn’t the end for their Legion family, and although they’ve lost five of their own and are to receive a new commander in a few months, the responsibility of carrying on their unit’s legacy falls in the hands of their NCOs.

In my time with B, 1-8, which started back at Fort Hood, Texas last year, I felt something special among its Soldiers. As I mourned their losses, I learned how important it is to go on and honor the sacrifices made by these fine Soldiers by

just continuing the mission as they have done time and time again from Haifa to Bourbon and back again.

The Mustang Battalion held a memorial for their fallen Soldiers at the FOB Rustamiyah Chapel March 20.

“These men were our friends, our leaders, our mentors, and our Soldiers,” said LTC Jeffrey Sauer, 1-8’s commander. “This tragic event has hit us very hard.”

During the ceremony, Sauer said there were so many questions everyone had about why it had to happen to these men. He offered this:

“We may never know or understand many of the answers, but this is what I think we all know today: We know of these five Soldiers’ competence and dedication. We know of their steadfast commitment to their families and friends - we know their dedication to this nation, to this battalion, and to this mission -- we know they volunteered and wanted to be a

part of something bigger than themselves.’

“We know these fine Soldiers cared for their Soldiers and would move mountains to take care of them,” he continued. “We know they cared deeply and loved their wives, children, fiancés with all their hearts.’

“To the parents, spouses and fiancé: I thank you for such noble and decent men. It’s with great pride to have known men of such high caliber. It’s our privilege and our honor to have served alongside these great Americans.”

Prater, 25, is survived by his wife Amy, their son Bryson, and their daughter Madisen. Harris, 26, is survived by his wife Brandy and their son Tyrus. Brand, 29, is survived by his parents John and Debi Brand. Green, 25, is survived by his mother Lynda and his father Craig. Lightner is survived by his wife, and his sons, Josh and Nathan. Arnold, 21, is survived by his mother Mary and his father Phillip.

Fallen Heroes

*Company B, 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment
2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division*



*SSG Terry Prater
Speedwell, TN*



*SSG Blake Harris
Royston, GA*



*SGT Ryan Green
Conroe, TX*



*SGT Emerson Brand
Claremore, OK*



*SGT Nick Lightner
Newport, OR*



*SPC James Arnold
Mattawan, MI*